

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image formation apparatus comprising:  
a development unit using a developer support having a  
conductive surface layer; and  
5 a control unit for causing an idle operation of the  
developer support to be performed at a predetermined timing  
in a non-print state.
2. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
10 wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the  
developer support when a developing bias applied to the  
developer support is off.
3. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
15 wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the  
developer support when an image exposure to an image support  
is off.
4. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
20 wherein the predetermined timing is involved in a non-operating  
time after power on or in a non-operating time after a  
termination of a preceding print.
5. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 1,  
25 wherein the predetermined timing is applied when installation

of a new development device is detected.

6. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print is performed for a time period determined based on a temperature, a humidity, and a toner consumption amount and an elapsed time since the preceding print.

7. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after power on or when installation of a new development device is detected is performed for the time period corresponding to a case of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print.

8. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after power on or when installation of a new development device is detected is performed for a time period corresponding to a case of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print.

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9. An image formation apparatus comprising:

a development unit using a developer support having a conductive surface layer; and

a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed before image formation operation.

10. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

11. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image exposure to an image support is off.

12. An image formation apparatus comprising:

a rotary developing unit; and

a control unit for causing an idle operation of a developer support to be performed each time development units installed in said rotary developing unit are switched.

13. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the

developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

14. The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 12,  
5 wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image exposure to an image support is off.

15. An image formation method comprising the steps of:

10 performing an idle operation of a developer support to decrease a density unevenness caused depending on a standing state of a developing chamber portion and an exposure portion of the developer support; and

opposing the developer support having the developing  
15 chamber portion and the exposure portion to an image support and forming an image.

16. The image formation method as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the  
20 developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

17. The image formation method as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the  
25 developer support when an image exposure to an image support

is off.

18. The image formation method as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein the idle operation is performed in a non-operating time  
5 after power on or in a non-operating time after a termination  
of a preceding print.

19. The image formation method as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein the idle operation is performed when installation of  
10 a new development device is detected.

20. The image formation method as claimed in claim 18,  
wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time  
after the termination of the preceding print is performed for  
15 a time period determined based on a temperature, a humidity,  
and a toner consumption amount and an elapsed time since the  
preceding print.

21. The image formation method as claimed in claim 18,  
20 wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time  
after power on or when installation of a new development device  
is detected is performed for a time period corresponding to  
a case of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large  
elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the  
25 non-operating time after the termination of the preceding

print.

22. The image formation method as claimed in claim 19,  
wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time  
5 after power on or when installation of a new development device  
is detected is performed for a time period corresponding to  
a case of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large  
elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the  
non-operating time after a termination of a preceding print.

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23. An image formation method comprising the steps of:

opposing a developer support having a developing chamber  
portion and an exposure portion to an image support and forming  
an image in toner with the volume fraction of fine powder having  
15 particle diameter 5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less set to 10% or less.

24. The image formation method as claimed in claim 23,  
wherein the existence ratio of free external additive in  
external additive added to the toner is set to 8% or less as  
20 the number ratio.

25. The image formation method as claimed in claim 23,  
wherein a wax content of the toner is set to 4 wt% or less.

25 26. The image formation method as claimed in claim 24,

wherein a wax content of the toner is set to 4 wt% or less.